

"His Devotion!"

Scripture: John 6:22-40

Text: John 6:38,39,

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day."

When we think of the qualities that stand out in the life of Jesus we cannot help but be reminded of "His Devotion." The word devotion is so often used like many other words, to convey several things, and to have implied in its meaning, more than one meaning.

For instance we speak of a devoted son or daughter. What is usually meant by this is a person who is loving, is trustworthy, who is concerned, who cares very deeply about the parent and so on. In other words the one word devotion, contains many other attributes, rather than just one.

Jesus was a Son such as this. He showed His Devotion to His earthly father and mother by his love, his concern, his trustworthiness and by all of the other things that this devotion entailed. But he also showed His Devotion to His Father by completely subjecting His life to what the Father had for Him to do. Along with this He tried to show His Devotion, ~~by~~ to others by pointing them to the Father. In other words His Devotion was not only a real thing He lived, but it was something that He tried to instill in others by His verbal message. Let us look at this in the portion of Scripture we read this evening.

The people came to Jesus after the feeding of the 5000 and Jesus tells them very bluntly they came not because they wanted to see Him, but because they had seen a miracle performed with food. In other words they would gladly hang around until it was time to eat, in order to be fed in a like manner. They were not interested in Him so much, as they were in what He could do for them.

He told them He was ~~xxxx~~ sealed by God. By this He meant that God had placed His stamp upon Him. In ancient times, Kings, Governors, rulers, anyone who was an official in a certain way, had signet rings. With these

rings they would place a seal upon a document. It was done in this manner, the ~~xxxxxx~~ document was usually in ~~xxxxxx~~ the form of a scroll, and it was rolled up. Soft clay was placed at the edges to keep it closed. The signet ring of the king or ruler, was impressed into the soft clay, and thereby the seal of that official was placed for the receiver to see. This scroll then was set aside ~~xxxxxx~~ for the clay to harden, and when it was delivered, everyone could determine whether or not it had been tampered with. If the seal was unbroken, it was an ~~xxx~~ considered an official document.

In a class on Archaeology at Seminary, we went to the Museum in Philadelphia, and saw there the pottery, tools, utensils and things found at different biblical excavation sites. One thing that I found very interesting, was the signet rings from the different kings and rulers of those ancient times. I held in my hand a small clay tablet that was written by the Summerians over 4000 years ago, and was formed in much this manner.

Then the people asked Jesus what they needed to do to be doing the will of God? vs28.

Jesus answered, vs 29, Believe in him whom he has sent. In other words, they are to begin showing a devotion to God.

They then do as so many before had done, they ask for a sign from Him so they may believe. In ancient times the people were very sceptical. Perhaps no more sceptical than many people today, but always they wanted proof that they might have something concrete, something tangible that they could see with their own eyes and believe it. That told Jesus of the manna that their forefathers ate in the wilderness, and how this was a visible proof of the guidance of God.

But Jesus tells them that they need no further sign than He Himself. That He is the new bread that God has sent from heaven, and they can have life and be sustained from this bread for all eternity.

And here in verse 38 He spells it out as plainly as He ever explained anything else in scripture. He says, "For I have come down from heaven

not to do my ~~will~~ own will, but the will of Him who sent me."

He is telling them that he was completely devoted to the cause of His Father and that nothing was going to sway Him or deter Him from this task. He was saying that He was willing to place His life completely in the hands of God, and that His own will was not to be considered in way, shape, or form.

Now here we see the complete subjection of His will to that of His Father. It is difficult to understand this complete devotion. I think I can say that there has never been another person who walked on the face of this earth who was completely devoted to a cause more than Jesus. I am sure we can cite examples of men and women who have been dedicated to a certain goal, or a certain aim, and have sought after that goal or aim with complete devotion to that task. But never, has there lived a man or woman who has completely surrendered all of life to a total devotion of all ~~faculties~~ faculties, all possessions, all ambitions, all desires, all of everything to serving the cause, such as Jesus did.

Just think of what this would take to do this! It would require the complete subjection of all thoughts, all desires, all of the very things that ~~make~~ go into life, all of them wrapped up in one basic cause. Our minds cannot completely fathom what this would mean.

We have come here tonight in this last Wednesday during Holy week, to prepare ourselves to partake of the Lord's Supper tomorrow night. We are in a sense looking at our lives from a new perspective. We are striving to say in effect, "God, I am a sinner, I have sinned many sins in the past, and I am now trying to devote all my thoughts and all of my life, to prepare it to worthily partake of the Supper of the Lord's Body and Blood."

We are looking at our devotion and we are making the comparison between it and His Devotion. But when we make this comparison, can we not see that Our Devotion and His Devotion are far, far apart? Can we not

understand that like John the Baptist we are standing in the presence of one whose very shoes we are unworthy to lace? Does it not give us a sense of shame and guilt that there was one who loved us so much, even before we were ever born that He was willing to die for us? This was His Devotion. A devotion that can never be ours. But a devotion that God asks us to have in us in whatever measure we possibly can have.

Let us ask God's guidance and blessing in our lives to have ~~this~~ a devotion which is much stronger, much deeper ~~than~~ than it has ever been, and a devotion that is more on a par with His Devotion, the devotion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us pray.